NUMB. XLI.

The SPECTATOR.

——Tu non inventa reperta es. Ovid.

Tueſday, April 17. 1711.

COMPASSION for the Gentleman who writes the following Letter, ſhould not prevail upon me to fall upon the Fair Sex, if it were not that I find they are frequently Fairer than they ought to be. Such Impoſtures are not to be tolerated in Civil Society; and I think his Misfortune ought to be made publick, as a Warning for other Men always to Examine into what they Admire.

SIR,

'SUppoſing you to be a Perſon of General Know-'ledge, I make my Application to you on a 'very particular Occaſion. I have a great Mind 'to be rid of my Wife, and hope, when you con-'ſider my Caſe, you will be of Opinion I have ve-'ry juſt Pretentions to a Divorce. I am a mere 'Man of the Town, and have very little Improve-'ment, but what I have got from Plays. I remem-'ber in *The Silent Woman* the Learned Dr. *Cutberd*, 'or Dr. *Otter* (I forget which) makes one of 'the Cauſes of Separation to be *Error Perſonæ*, when 'a Man marries a Woman, and finds her not to be the 'ſame Woman whom he intended to marry, but ano-'ther. If that be Law, it is, I preſume, exactly my Caſe. 'For you are to know, Mr. *Spectator*, that there 'are Women who do not let their Husbands ſee 'their Faces 'till they are married.

'Not to keep you in ſuſpence, I mean plainly, that 'part of the Sex who paint. They are ſome of them 'ſo Exquiſitely skilful this Way, that give them but 'a Tolerable Pair of Eyes to ſet up with, and they 'will make Boſom, Lips, Cheeks, and Eyebrows, 'by their own Induſtry. As for my Dear, never Man 'was ſo inamour'd as I was of her fair Forehead, 'Neck and Arms, as well as the bright Jett of her Hair; 'but to my great Aſtoniſhment, I find they were all 'the Effect of Art: Her Skin is ſo Tarniſhed with 'this Practice, that when ſhe firſt wakes in a Morn-'ing, ſhe ſcarce ſeems young enough to be the Mo-'ther of her whom I carried to Bed the Night before. 'I ſhall take the Liberty to part with her by the 'firſt Opportunity, unleſs her Father will make 'her Portion ſuitable to her real, not her aſſumed, 'Countenance. This I thought fit to let him and her 'know by your means.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt Obedient,

Humble Servant.

I cannot tell what the Law, or the Parents of the Lady, will do for this Injured Gentleman, but muſt allow he has very much Juſtice on his ſide. I have indeed very long obſerved this Evil, and diſtinguiſhed thoſe of our Women who wear their own, from thoſe in borrowed Complexions, by the *Picts* and the *Britiſh*. There does not need any great Diſcernment to judge which are which. The *Britiſh* have a lively, animated Aſpect; The *Picts*, tho' never ſo Beautiful, have dead, uninformed Countenances. The Muſcles of a real Face ſometimes ſwell with ſoft Paſſion, ſudden Surprize, and are flushed with agreeable Confuſions, according as the Objects before them, or the Ideas preſented to them, affect their Imagination. But the *Picts* behold all things with the ſame Air, whether they are Joyful or Sad; The ſame fix'd Inſenſibility appears upon all Occaſions. A *Pict*, tho' ſhe takes all that Pains to invite the Approach of Lovers, is obliged to keep them at a certain Diſtance; a Sigh in a Languiſhing Lover, if fetched too near her, would diſſolve a Feature; and a Kiſs ſnatched by a Forward one, might tranſfer the Complexion of the Miſtreſs to the Admirer. It is hard to ſpeak of theſe falſe Fair Ones, without ſaying ſomething uncomplaiſant, but I would only recommend to them to conſider how they like coming into a Room new Painted; they may aſſure themſelves, the near Approach of a Lady who uſes this Practice is much more offenſive.

WILL. HONEYCOMB told us, one Day, an Adventure he once had with a *Pict*. This Lady had Wit, as well as Beauty, at Will, and made it her Buſineſs to gain Hearts, for no other Reaſon, but to rally the Torments of her Lovers. She would make

make great Advances in Mens Men, but without any manner of Scruple breaks off when there was no Provocation. Her Ill-Nature and Vanity made my Friend very eaſily Proof againſt the Charms of her Wit and Converſation; but her beauteous Form, inſtead of being blemiſhed by her Falſhood and Inconſtancy, every Day increaſed upon him, and ſhe had new Attractions every time he ſaw her. When ſhe obſerved WILL. irrevocably her Slave, ſhe began to uſe him as ſuch, and after many ſteps toward ſuch a Cruelty, ſhe at laſt utterly baniſhed him. The unhappy Lover ſtrove in vain, by ſervile Epiſtles, to revoke his Doom, till at length he was forced to the laſt Refuge, a round Sum of Mony to her Maid. This corrupt Attendant placed him early in the Morning behind the Hangings in her Miſtreſs's Dreſſing-Room. He ſtood very conveniently to obſerve, without being ſeen. The *Piſt* begins the Face ſhe deſigned to wear that Day, and I have heard him proteſt ſhe had worked a full half Hour before he knew her to be the ſame Woman. As ſoon as he ſaw the Dawn of that Complexion, for which he had ſo long languiſhed, he thought fit to break from his Concealment, repeating that of *Cowley*:

Th' adorning Thee, with ſo much Art,
Is but a barbarous Skill;
'Tis like the Pois'ning of a Dart,
Too apt before to kill.

The *Piſt* ſtood before him in the utmoſt Confuſion, with the prettieſt Smirk imaginable on the finiſh'd ſide of her Face, pale as Aſhes on the other. HONEYCOMB ſeized all her Gally-Pots and Waſhes, and carried off his Handkerchief full of Bruſhes, Scraps of *Spaniſh* Wool, and Phials of Unguents. The Lady went into the Country, the Lover was cured.

It is certain no Faith ought to be kept with Cheats, and an Oath made to a *Piſt* is of it ſelf void. I would therefore exhort all the *Britiſh* Ladies to ſingle them out, nor do I know any but *Lindamira*, who ſhould be Exempt from Diſcovery; for her own Complexion is ſo delicate, that ſhe ought to be allowed the Covering it with Paint, as a Puniſhment for chuſing to be the worſt Piece of Art extant, inſtead of the Maſterpiece of Nature. As for my part, who have no Expectations from Women, and Conſider them only as they are part of the Species, I do not half ſo much fear offending a Beauty, as a Woman of Senſe; I ſhall therefore produce ſeveral Faces which have been in Publick this many Years, and never appeared; it will be a very pretty Entertainment in the Play-Houſe (when I have aboliſhed this Cuſtom) to ſee ſo many Ladies, when they firſt lay it down, *incog.* in their own Faces.

In the mean time, as a Pattern for improving their Charms, let the Sex ſtudy the agreeable *Statira*. Her Features are enlivened with the Chearfulneſs of her Mind, and good Humour gives an Alacrity to her Eyes. She is Graceful without Affecting an Air, and Unconcerned without appearing Careleſs. Her having no manner of Art in her Mind, makes her want none in her Perſon.

How like is this Lady, and how unlike is a *Piſt*, to that Deſcription Dr. *Donne* gives of his Miſtreſs?

—Her Pure and Eloquent Blood
Spoke in her Cheeks, and ſo diſtinctly Wrought,
That one would almoſt ſay her Body Thought.

ADVERTISEMENT.

A young Gentlewoman of about Nineteen Years of Age (bred in the Family of a Perſon of Quality lately deceaſed,) who Paints the Fineſt Fleſh-colour, wants a Place, and is to be heard of at the Houſe of Minheer Groteſque, *a* Dutch *Painter in* Barbican:

N. B. *She is alſo well ſkilled in the Drapery-part, and puts on Hoods and mixes Ribbands ſo as to ſuit the Colours of the Face with great Art and Succeſs.*

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of March, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate, Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard, Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Deſire of ſeveral Ladies of Quality.
For the Benefit of Mr. Powell.
By her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane this preſent Tueſday being the 17th of April, will be preſented a Play call'd the Indian Emperor, or the Conqueſt of Mexico by the Spaniards. The part of Cortez by Mr. Powel, Montezuma Mr. Keene, Odmar Mr. Mills, Guyomar Mr. Booth, Almeria Mrs. Knight, Alibech Mrs. Porter, Cydaria Mrs. Saudaw.

N. B. Advertiſements for Plays will be continued, from time to time, in this Paper.

This Play is ſold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-againſt Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Mr. Oznam's Compleat Treatiſe of Fortification, in 6 Parts, 1ſt Regular Fortification. 2d. Conſtruction of Outworks 3d Different Methods of Fortifying, as by de Ville, Errard, Pagan, Vauban, Cohorne, and ſeveral Nations. 4th Irregular Fortifications. 5th Fortification Offenſive; and 6th Defenſive. With near 60 curious Copper Plates explaining every particular Part; more plain and eaſie than any extant. Done into Engliſh by Mr. Deſaguliers of Hart-Hall in Oxon, with an Appendix concerning that manner of Fortifying, which is truly Mr. Vauban's. Never before in Engliſh, in large 8vo. Sold by M. Hawkins at the Angel in St. Paul's Church Yard, and J. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall. Note, Mr. Oznam's whole Courſe of the Mathematicks will be publiſhed in 2 Months, in 5 Vols, in 8vo. The 1ſt contains an Introduction to the Mathematicks, Euclide Elements with large Notes and Demonſtrations, and his Algebra. The 2d Vol. Arithmetick, Trigonometry, &c. The 3d Geometry, &c. in every part. 4th Mechanicks (to which is added by way of Note, whatever is in Dr. Wallis) and Perſpective. The 5th Vol. Geography, Dialing, &c. With ſeveral Hundred Copper Cuts, and the moſt correct and uſeful Tables yet Extant. The Price of the whole is 30 s. bound; but to thoſe that Subſcribe now, with Advantage of the 7 h Book, comes to 24 s. bound. Subſcriptions are taken in at moſt Bookſellers in London and Country, and Subſcribers Names Printed for return'd in time.

An excellent Collection of Pictures never before expos'd to Sale, will be ſold by Auction on Wedneſday the 18th Inſtant, at 10 a Clock perciſely, at Mr. Breſſan's at the 2 Flower-Pots in Summerſet-yard in the Strand; and at the ſame time will be expoſed to Sale by Auction, a extraordinary good Ruckers Harpſichords of Antwerp, each of them 2 Setts of Keys, approv'd of by the beſt Maſters in England. The Pictures and Harpſichords may be viewed 2 Days before the Sale, where Catalogues may be had.

This Day is Publiſh'd,

The Rover, being Engliſh Words made to the moſt Celebrated Air. Sung by Madam Iſabella Girardau, in the Opera of Rinaldo, Engraven on a Copper-Plate, Price 2 d. Sold by J. Simpſon, Engraver, near the Chapel in Ruſſel-Court, Covent-Garden, and J. Baker at the Black-Boy in Pater-noſter-row.

All ſorts of Silk Gowns, being a parcel of Rich Brocadoes, Venetian Japan'd, and Thread Sattins, Tiſſues, Damaſks, and variety of other Silks, bought great Pennyworths, of People that have failed, and to be Sold ſo by Mrs. Attaway, who lives in Devereux Court, in the Paſſage from the Temple to Eſſex buildings. Note, there are Callimanco Gowns, lin'd with Poplin, and Sattinets for 28 s. middling Size, and 30 s. large Size, and the loweſt Price is writ on each Gown.

A brown and white Italian Greyhound Dog, with a white ſnip upon his Noſe, and his two hinder Feet white, Loſt in Lincolns-Inn Fields, or between that and Bloomsbury Square, on Wedneſday the 11th Inſtant at Night; whoever brings him to the George Inn in Holborn ſhall receive 10 s. reward.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*, and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lille*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.